

A note from the Superintendent

Dear Friends

I write this letter with more than a little trepidation. So much of the last few months has been so unpredictable that planning three months ahead seems a little optimistic. There remains much uncertainty about what we will be permitted to do and how we will be permitted to do it. Many regular and treasured events particularly around Christmas worship have already had to be cancelled or scaled down just in case. Our Plan then is, perhaps more than ever, an act of faith, a statement about our trust in God's future and our commitment to our calling as God's people.

Likewise it is a powerful reminder that Christmas is not cancelled. Indeed it is perhaps an opportunity to rediscover the heart of Christmas, not in online shopping or a surfeit of calories, but in the simple family life of a couple juggling pregnancy amidst government edicts and rules.

God comes amongst us not when we are ready, but amidst the chaos and uncertainty. Angels emerge unexpectedly out of the darkness as we trudge through our working day and the appearance of wise men, well, wise men are always a surprise whenever they appear! God comes to dwell in and amongst our unreadiness, our struggle, our hurt, our mess, our longing and our yearning. This year will be no different. We will seek and discover and celebrate God with us, amidst every quarantine and within every moment of isolation.

In writing this letter may I also offer my thanks to our Local Preachers and Worship Leaders who have continued to lead us faithfully in worship during this difficult time. Worship and preaching are not easy tasks to lead not least in such unusual times. We are deeply grateful for their continued wisdom and commitment. At the same time we must also recognise the many new things that have begun amongst

us. The media services has been a blessing to many and Zoom services are becoming second nature for others. Holy Habits have begun. Elsewhere members and friends use the printed resources made available through armies of pastoral visitors and volunteers and prayers arise in unexpected places and people. God moves, and is moving, in ways mysterious and even Methodist!

May I commend this Plan and it's preachers and leaders of worship to you. Please use it for prayer. God is and will be with us, wherever and however we worship.

Blessings
Tim

Lectionary Readings for this Quarter

6th Dec	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
13th Dec	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thess 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
20th Dec	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
25th Dec	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14
27th Dec	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
3rd Jan	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147: 12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
10th Jan	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
17th Jan	1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Cor 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
24th Jan	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Cor 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
31st Jan	Deut 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
7th Feb	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Cor 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
14th Feb	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Cor 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
21st Feb	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
28th Feb	Gen 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

WINTER 2020 PLAN NO: 225	DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY			
	6th	13th	20th	25th	27th	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st	7th	14th	21st	28th
Barton 10:30am	Parish Church	J. Collins	Boocock	No service	No Service	B. Carter	P. Law	LA	Bower HC	Pinkney	Cutler Cov / HC	Simpson	Coustick	Howard
Cockerton 10:30am	Pinkney	Boocock HC	LA	9:30am Boocock	No Service	Boocock Cov / HC	George	Simpson	Boocock	Bright	LA	Selley	Boocock HC	Sutcliffe
Elm Ridge 10:30am	Boocock HC	George	3pm Boocock / CS	10:30am Boocock	No Service	Simpson	Boocock Cov / HC	Sutcliffe	LA	Howard	Bright	LA	Collins	Boocock HC
Harrowgate Hill 10:30am	Cookson	Bower	Hutton CS	Sutcliffe	No Service	Howard	Hutton Cov / HC	B. Carter	Hutton	Simpson	Hutton CA	LA	George	Bower HC
Haughton 10:30am	Simpson	Bartle	At H. Hill	At H. Hill	No Service	Hutton Cov / HC	Sutcliffe	Boocock	George HC	LA	Bower	Boocock	Carter	Hutton HC
Hurworth 10am	Howard	Hutton HC	Sutcliffe CS	No service	No Service	Bower Cov / HC	Bright	LA	Cookson	Sutcliffe	Boocock	LA	P. Collins	Simpson
The Well 10:30am	Hutton HC	Bright	LA CS	10am Hutton	No Service	Pinkney	LA	Hutton Cov / HC	Selley	Hutton	LA	Hutton HC	Howard	Bright

BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE CIRCUIT

B. Castle 10:30am	P. Collins	Cutler	Cutler PM service CS	10am Cutler	No Service	R. Dent	Howard	Cutler Cov / HC	I. Tallentire	Boocock	Coustick	Cutler HC	Dent	LA
The Pathway 10:30am	-	S. Walton	Cutler	No Service	No Service	-	P. Collins	I. Tallentire	Cutler Cov / HC	Tarn UTCT	-	Sutcliffe	Cutler HC	LA
2:30pm	Cutler Toy Service					Walton					P. Collins			
Staindrop 10:30am	Bagnall CS	Coustick	Bagnall	No service	No Service	At BC	Bagnall	L. Tallentire	J. Collins	Cutler Cov / HC	Bartle	Bagnall	Walton	Cutler HC

MEDIA SERVICES AND HOLY HABITS

Media Service	Hutton	Boocock	Cutler	Boocock	No Service	Boocock	Cutler	Hutton	Howard	Charters	Hutton	Boocock	Cutler	Hutton
Holy Habits							6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom	6pm Zoom

PLAN CODES

LA	Local Arrangement	AS	Alternative service	US	United Service
CS	Carol Service	HC	Holy Communion	MS	Memorial Service
SBS	Shoe box service	CA	Church Anniversary	UTCT	Upper Teesdale Churches Together
Cov	Covenant	AT	Afternoon Tea		

Preachers are expected to fulfil their own appointments or provide an accredited substitute and inform the Superintendent and the Church Steward(s) of the change. Please can Churches and Preachers ensure their plan dates for the next quarter are sent to the Circuit Office by 12th February 2021.